

Weronika Cwir

From: Cathy Noh [cathy.noh@saylorcompany.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 7:00 AM
To: Cathy Noh
Subject: Abkhazian President Urges U.S. to Support Peace and Security, Not Georgia's False Claims
Attachments: Statement from Sergei Bagapsh 7-23-09.pdf
Importance: High

Attached is a statement released on behalf of Sergei Bagapsh, President of the Republic of Abkhazia. We are advisors for the government and hope you will consider this in your coverage of current events in Georgia.

This material is circulated by Saylor Company on behalf of the Republic of Abkhazia, for which Saylor Company is registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act with the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. Copies of this material and additional information are on file with the Department of Justice..

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HSD/CES/REGISTRATION
UNIT

2009 NOV -2 AM 11:53

From: Cathy Noh [mailto:cathy.noh@saylorcompany.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2009 8:58 AM
To: Cathy Noh
Subject: Statement by the Republic of Abkhazia on cyber attack
Importance: High

Attached is a press release from the government of the Republic of Abkhazia in response to the cyber attacks against a Georgian blogger. We are advisors for the government and hope you will find this useful in your coverage.

Best regards,

Cathy Noh

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August 11, 2009



Statement by Republic of Abkhazia on Cyber Attack

The following is a statement by Christian Bzhania, spokesman for the Republic of Abkhazia, in response to media reports about last week's cyber attack that disrupted the sites of Twitter, Facebook and LiveJournal, among others:

"The Government of the Republic of Abkhazia denounces last week's reported cyber attack on a Georgian blogger writing about the events leading up to the August 2008 war. We think the Internet is a powerful tool for sharing information and reaching beyond borders to encourage constructive debate.

"Our government strongly supports the right to free speech. The posting by the Georgian blogger was riddled with inaccuracies and falsehoods, but it doesn't excuse an illegal effort on the Internet to silence him. We will cooperate with any investigation into that incident.

"As an independent nation, Abkhazia is working hard to build a democracy, which includes the rights of its citizens to voice their opinions freely. Our government welcomes all opportunities to engage with the international community, including dialogue on the Internet. But our efforts to interact with the global community continue to be stifled by the policies of Georgia and its western supporters to isolate our nation. We hope the world will join us in encouraging Georgia to open the doors for a legitimate and respectful discussion about a path to peace in our region."

####

Contact: Saylor Company
626-794-8606

Evelyn Iritani
evelyn.iritani@saylorcompany.com

Steven Ellis
steven.ellis@saylorcompany.com

SAYLOR COMPANY

PUBLIC RELATIONS COUNSEL

August 31, 2009

The Honorable Jeanne Sheehan
The Honorable Jim DeMint
European Affairs Subcommittee
United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators:

Please find attached a letter from His Excellency Sergei Shamba, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Abkhazia, which I send to you on his behalf.

If you wish, I remain available to you or your staffs to answer what questions I can or to pass along to the Minister any thoughts you may have.

Best regards,

Steve Ellis
Principal
202-715-1448
steven.ellis@saylorcompany.com

cc:

The Honorable Chris Dodd
The Honorable Bob Menendez
The Honorable Bob Casey, Jr.
The Honorable Jim Webb
The Honorable Ted Kaufman
The Honorable Jim Risch
The Honorable Bob Corker
The Honorable Roger Wicker

The Honorable Hillary Clinton
The Honorable Phillip Gordon

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From: Cathy Noh [mailto:cathy.noh@saylorcompany.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 01, 2009 9:56 AM
To: Cathy Noh
Subject: Government of Abkhazia responds to Saakashvili remarks
Importance: High

Attached is a statement from the Government of Abkhazia. Please consider this in your coverage of the region.

Best regards,

Cathy

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NSD/CES/REGISTRATION
UNIT

2009 NOV -2 AM 11:53

September 1, 2009



Statement by the Republic of Abkhazia

The following is a statement by Nadir Bitiev, Deputy Official Representative of the President of the Republic of Abkhazia, in response to remarks made by President Mikheil Saakashvili during a recent visit to Ganmukhur.

"When Georgian President Saakashvili accuses others of thwarting normal life in this region, as he did Sunday, he needs to look in a mirror. He is the one who has used his Western-trained and equipped military to threaten our people with violence and terrorism, forcing us to bolster our borders with Russian help. He is the one who has illegally seized ships whose only crime was attempting to bring household goods and construction materials to our ports. He is the one who has imposed a political and economic embargo against us, a diplomatic 'Berlin Wall,' to persuade foreigners not to visit Abkhazia's beautiful beaches and to prevent our citizens from visiting other countries for medical care or schooling.

"President Saakashvili also said Sunday that Georgia is an enlightened place where people can choose their own way of life. The world must question the moral authority he has to make such a claim. The President's emotional rhetoric is filled with falsehoods and irrational hostility. His supporters in the West should think carefully before adding more fuel to his fire."

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From: Cathy Noh [mailto:cathy.noh@saylorcompany.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 03, 2009 9:46 AM
To: Cathy Noh
Subject: Official Statement of the Republic of Abkhazia on Georgian incursion into Abkhaz waters
Importance: High

The attached statement from the Government of the Republic of Abkhazia deals with Georgian incursion into Abkhaz waters. Please consider the statement in your coverage of the region.

Best regards,

Cathy

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September 3, 2009

Official Statement of The Republic of Abkhazia on Georgian
Incursion in Abkhazian Waters

“The Republic of Abkhazia reserves the right to use all means necessary to stop Georgian incursion in our waters, including seizing – or if necessary, destroying – Georgian ships violating Abkhazian territorial waters. This policy is not new. It has been in effect since the 1992 war of independence. We restate it now with reluctance. The Georgian Government leaves us no choice as it continues to pursue unwarranted maritime interdictions of other countries’ ships, some of which belong to NATO members with whom Georgia wishes to partner. As a sovereign nation, we are implementing this policy on our own initiative without pressure or assistance from any other government.

The Georgian authorities must deal with the reality that Abkhazia is not part of Georgia and never will be. Continuing to try to intimidate our people by isolating them and subjecting them to terrorist measures solves nothing, and in fact, exacerbates international tensions in the region. Georgia’s political and financial ally, the United States, has warned its leaders that using or encouraging military action is not the answer to stability in this region, yet they persist with provocations to the contrary. It is precisely this kind of bullying that convinces Abkhazians that re-unification with Georgia is impossible. “

--Nadir Bitiev, Deputy Official Representative of the President of the Republic of Abkhazia

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NSD/CES/REGISTRATION
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2009 NOV -2 AM 11:53

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PUBLIC RELATIONS COUNSEL

September 4, 2009

The Honorable Jeanne Sheehan
The Honorable Jim DeMint
European and Asian Affairs Subcommittee
United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators:

Please find attached a letter from His Excellency Murat Kuzmich Dzioev, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Ossetia, which I send to you on his behalf.

If you wish, I remain available to you or your staffs to answer what questions I can or to pass along to the Minister any thoughts you may have.

Best regards,

Steve Ellis
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steven.ellis@saylorcompany.com

cc:

The Honorable Chris Dodd
The Honorable Bob Menendez
The Honorable Bob Casey, Jr.
The Honorable Jim Webb
The Honorable Ted Kaufman
The Honorable Jim Risch
The Honorable Bob Corker
The Honorable Roger Wicker

The Honorable Hillary Clinton
The Honorable Phillip Gordon

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исх. 956 от 1.09.09г.

The Honorable Jeanne Sheehan
The Honorable Jim DeMint
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
European Affairs Subcommittee
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6225
USA

Dear Chairwoman Sheehan and Ranking Member DeMint:

The hearing you recently held, marking the first anniversary of the 8 August 2008 war in South Ossetia was both interesting and troubling to us in the Republic of South Ossetia. We welcome the Subcommittee's continuing interest in what happens in the Caucasus area, yet we believe you do not have the complete picture.

We in South Ossetia know well that the United States supports Georgia as an ally. The complex geopolitical ramifications of that alliance unfortunately often overshadow the voices and desires of the South Ossetian people.

South Ossetians, of course, want peace and stability. I believe you do as well. Having seen the horror and destruction from Georgian attacks on our civilian population and infrastructure—from the war a year ago and from previous military actions—I can assure you that we abhor the possibility of further hostilities.

Honorable Senators, I can assure you that after the havoc Georgia wrought upon our people last August, South Ossetians never want to be part of Georgia. During that calculated onslaught, Georgia's U.S. trained soldiers killed innocent civilians and destroyed hundreds of hospitals, churches, schools, private homes, and more than 80 percent of our commercial capacity. Because of that brutality, reunification with Georgia is simply impossible.

Assistant Secretary of State Philip Gordon testified at your hearing that the United States Government has limited ability to gauge the situation on the ground here in South Ossetia. He told Senator Wicker that it is difficult to measure public opinion about South Ossetians wanting to be part of Georgia in the future.

Frankly, my Government disputes much of the information contained in Assistant Secretary Gordon's testimony as well as that of the other U.S. Government officials, who also testified. Much of what they state as fact is simply incorrect.

If the United States Government wants to learn the truth about what happened last August, and the impact that Georgia's continuing hostility has had on our people, its representatives should come see for themselves. I invite you, members of your staffs, Assistant Secretary Gordon, and other U.S. Government officials to come to South Ossetia.

The South Ossetian Government welcomes you to visit us and talk to our people about their dreams and aspirations. You can meet and interview public and private sector South Ossetians who are working to rebuild the destruction of war and to overcome the oppression they suffered under Georgian rule, which was forced upon them by Joseph Stalin.

Our citizens, like those everywhere, have different views on how successful we have been at achieving success in rebuilding our nation in the past year. When you come here, you can speak with them directly just as several American journalists did when they were in Tskhinval to cover our commemoration of the 2008 war. You may have seen that reporting from outlets such as The New York Times, Bloomberg, AP, and Reuters. Those journalists worked freely and without restriction.

I believe strongly that if we could share South Ossetia's views of the situation here that you would gain the benefit of a broader perspective upon which to formulate U.S. Government policy. You may not accept what we have to say but not hearing it at all seems to me, Senators, a tragic mistake. I believe that is the point Senator Wicker was trying to make.

I hope that you will give my invitation every positive consideration in the name of the fairness and objectivity the American people so value.

I look forward to your response.

Respectfully,



Murat Kuzmich Dzioev
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Republic of South Ossetia

From: Steve Ellis [mailto:steven.ellis@saylorcompany.com]

Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2009 9:49 AM

To: 'michael.mainville@afp.com'

Subject: Statement from President Bagapsh on Venezuela's Recognition of Abkhazia

Michael,

Please see the attached statement from President Bagapsh. Will send to Elise and Amelie as well.

Thanks,

Steve

This material is circulated by Saylor Company on behalf of the Republic of Abkhazia, for which Saylor Company is registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act with the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. Copies of this material and additional information are on file with the Department of Justice.

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**STATEMENT BY SERGEI BAGAPSH, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ABKHAZIA
ON THE RECOGNITION OF ABKHAZIA BY VENEZUELA**

The Government of the Republic of Abkhazia is honored to be recognized as an independent state by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The Abkhazian people thank Venezuela for its confidence in our future. This recognition will help to solidify our nation's long-term success. We look forward to an array of political, economic, and cultural programs that will produce mutual benefits for the citizens of both nations.

The Abkhazian people encourage other governments around the world to follow the example of the Russia, Nicaragua, and Venezuela and recognize our right to be responsible and productive members of the international community. We will receive any such recognition with gratitude and respect.

-- Sergei Bagapsh, President, Republic of Abkhazia

Contact:

Nadir Bitiev

Government of Abkhazia

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or

Steve Ellis

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From: Steve Ellis [mailto:steven.ellis@saylorcompany.com]
Sent: Saturday, September 12, 2009 7:37 AM
To: 'marc.champion@wsj.com'
Subject: Statement from Abkhazia on UN Refugee Vote

Marc,

Please see the attached from Nadir Bitiev of the Office of the President of Abkhazia.

Hope all is well with you and those important to you.

Steve

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STATEMENT FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ABKHAZIA ON UN RESOLUTION A/63/L79,
DEALING WITH RETURN OF REFUGEES TO ABKHAZIA AND SOUTH OSSETIA

The United Nations this week passed Resolution A/63/L79, which deals with the return of refugees to Abkhazia and South Ossetia. This resolution, debated and voted on without any input from Abkhazia, smacks of old-style colonialism under which established powers make decisions about ethnic groups and nations less powerful void of discussion with those people. The reality is that Abkhazia is not part of Georgia and never will be. Accordingly, Georgia does not control our territory, policies, nor speak for Abkhazians—who are actually helping hundreds of refugees return to their homes.

In the Gal region of Abkhazia, for example, the Abkhazian Government is promoting an active Georgian refugee return program that includes financial and social incentives. This process takes time. Some who lived in Abkhazia prior to our independence in 1999, were paramilitary terrorists. We will not allow terrorists, regardless of nationality, to return, and if they do, we are justified in prosecuting them under our laws.

Resolution A/63/L79 is a political manipulation by Georgia and its western allies. The large number of nations abstaining from voting on the resolution—78—may be indicative of how impractical it actually is because it is not founded on the reality of Abkhazian independence.

--Nadir Bitiev, Deputy Official Representative of the President of the Republic of Abkhazia, 12 September 2009

From: Cathy Noh [mailto:cathy.noh@saylorcompany.com]

Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2009 6:37 AM

Subject: Statement from Abkhaz President Sergei Bagapsh in Advance of President Saakashvili's UNGA Speech

Importance: High

Please consider the attached statement from Abkhaz President Sergei Bagapsh in any of your coverage of Georgian President Saakashvili's UNGA speech.

We also include an article from Der Spiegel, dealing with the upcoming report from the special EU commission charged with investigating the 2008 war in South Ossetia. We've seen other media reports that indicate the report will be released on 30 September. We will likely have some reaction from South Ossetia and from Abkhazia for you on this important document.

In addition, we attach a fact sheet on the refugee situation in Abkhazia for your reference. President Saakashvili will probably refer to refugees in his speech.

Best regards,

Steve Ellis
Saylor Company
202-715-1448

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September 24, 2009



**Statement from Abkhaz President Sergei Bagapsh in
Advance of President Saakashvili's UNGA Speech**

President Saakashvili is one of the most dangerous leaders in the world. He has convinced his allies that he supports democracy, yet his own people know that he jails critics and crushes dissent. He speaks of peace, yet he triggers war. His brutal attack on the civilians of South Ossetia in 2008 and his refusal to take responsibility for the unnecessary deaths and widespread damage that resulted is a tragic reminder of his dangerous behavior. His recent confiscation of ships delivering peaceful goods to Abkhazia is yet another example of his reckless decision-making.

I understand the United Nations must provide a forum for world leaders, even those who have consistently displayed an inability to tell the truth. But for the U.N. to debate the future of the Abkhazian and Ossetian people without even hearing their voices is unconscionable and smacks of an era when colonial powers unilaterally determined the fate of smaller nations.

If the United Nations is serious about promoting peace in the Caucasus, then it will use its influence to persuade President Saakashvili to renounce violence against his neighbors and to participate in an honest dialogue about a peaceful way forward.

Abkhazians have welcomed back tens of thousands of refugees to the Gal region and have established policies to ensure their safe return and resettlement. We are moving forward to build our nation's future and secure our position as responsible and productive members of the international community.

-- Sergei Bagapsh, President, Republic of Abkhazia

###

Contact: Saylor Company
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Steven Ellis
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EU Report - Independent Experts Blame Georgia for South Ossetia War Der Spiegel, September 21 2009, 345 words

An EU expert commission has put the blame for last summer's South Ossetia war on Georgia, but also holds Russia partly responsible, SPIEGEL has learned. The findings, which are still under wraps, are likely to reignite the debate on the causes of the war when they are published.

The independent commission appointed by the European Union to investigate the war between Georgia and Russia last summer has concluded that Tbilisi is responsible for causing the five-day conflict, SPIEGEL has learned.

According to diplomats in Brussels who are familiar with the contents of the secret document, the EU experts also assign part of the responsibility for the war to Russia, however. The report, which stems from an initiative by German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier and his colleagues from the Benelux countries, concludes that Moscow escalated the conflict through its massive deployment of troops.

The international commission, which is headed by Heidi Tagliavini, wants to keep its findings under wraps until next week because the Swiss diplomat first wants to present the controversial results to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in New York. After that, the ambassadors of the 27 EU member states in Brussels and the Georgian and Russian governments will be simultaneously informed of the commission's findings.

The publication of the report is set to spark renewed debate about who is responsible for the war. Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili has already complained that "some idiots say we started the war." Tbilisi is mainly afraid that the report will reduce the chances of Georgia being allowed to join NATO within the near future.

The conflict broke out on Aug. 7, 2008 when Georgia attacked the breakaway region of South Ossetia. Russian forces quickly repelled the Georgian attack and advanced into Georgia. Hundreds of people, including many civilians, are believed to have died during the fighting before a ceasefire was agreed upon on Aug. 12.

...

END

September 2009



FACT SHEET ON THE REPUBLIC OF ABKHAZIA'S REFUGEE PROGRAM

Since the 1992-93 Abkhazian Georgian war, more than 60,000 refugees have been successfully resettled in Abkhazia, which represents the largest peaceful resettlement program in modern times. This has occurred in spite of an ongoing campaign by the Georgian government to politicize the refugee process by provoking ethnic tensions, creating impediments to the safe return of refugees and establishing legal and diplomatic barriers to an international resolution.

The following points are designed to provide background on the refugee situation in Abkhazia.

- **WHY HAVE SO MANY PEOPLE FLED ABKHAZIA?**
During the 1992-93 war, Georgian troops launched a massive attack on the civilian population of Abkhazia, destroying schools, hospitals, cultural relics and government buildings. This attack, which was aimed at annihilating the Abkhazian population and bringing the territory firmly under Georgian control, caused a massive exodus. More than 500 villages were destroyed. Though the Abkhazians successfully fought off Georgian attackers, the conflict did not end. In the decades following, Georgia repeatedly tried to destabilize Abkhazia, launching military incursions in 1998, 2001 and August 2006. Each conflict triggered another outflow of refugees.
- **HOW MANY REFUGEES HAVE BEEN FORCED TO LEAVE ABKHAZIA?**
Since the 1992-93 war, an estimated 190,000 refugees have left Abkhazia. They included Abkhazians, Georgians, Mingrelians, Greeks, Jews and Russians.
- **HOW MANY REFUGEES HAVE RETURNED?**
The largest concentration of Georgians within Abkhazia was in the Gal region. Since the war, more than 52,000 refugees have returned to Gal. In addition, at least 15,000 Georgians have returned to other regions of Abkhazia. Claims by the Georgian government that there are more than 500,000 refugees still displaced from their homes are absurd.
- **WHAT RIGHTS DO GEORGIAN RETURNEES HAVE?**

Under Abkhazian law, citizens are treated equally regardless of race, nationality, sex or religion.

- **DO RESIDENTS OF GAL HAVE ANY SPECIAL RIGHTS?**
To assist the residents of Gal in their resettlement, the government of Abkhazia has provided them with some special privileges. They include an exemption from compulsory military service, free emergency medical care, Georgian-language schools, scholarships for higher education and small business assistance.
- **ARE GEORGIANS FORCED TO TAKE ABKHAZIAN PASSPORTS TO LIVE IN ABKHAZIA?**
The identity documents valid for residency in Abkhazia include the following: passports from Abkhazia or the Russia Federation or an identity document known as Form 9. An identity document is required to hold a job, purchase real estate, enroll children in school and receive medical care. According to the Gal administration, 1,642 Georgian residents of Gal have applied for and received Abkhazian passports. Reports that Georgians have been forced to take Abkhazian passports are untrue.
- **WHY HAS THE ABKHAZIAN GOVERNMENT REFUSED TO ALLOW GEORGIAN REFUGEES BACK TO THEIR HOMES IN EASTERN ABKHAZIA?**
The Abkhazian government has not prevented refugees from returning, and to the contrary, has overseen the largest peaceful resettlement of refugees in history. However, to ensure the safety and economic security of its population, the Abkhazian government insists that certain preconditions be met before it opens its door to thousands of additional people. Those conditions include a Georgian pledge of non-violence and an independent assessment of the current refugee situation in Abkhazia, including a full accounting of all refugees resettled to date.
- **ARE THERE ANY REFUGEES WHO HAVE NOT BEEN ALLOWED TO RETURN?**
The Abkhazian government maintains the right to prosecute any citizens who have participated in subversive activities, such as armed attacks or kidnappings. The government has a list of people accused of those activities and they will be arrested and prosecuted if they return to Abkhazian territory. Since August 2008, five people have been killed and more than 10 injured as a result of terrorist attacks involving Georgians.
- **HOW HAS THE GEORGIAN GOVERNMENT IMPEDED THE SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION OF THE REFUGEE PROBLEM?**
To begin with, Georgia's government is responsible for creating the refugee problem by its repeated and unsuccessful efforts to retake its former territories in Abkhazia and South Ossetia by force. Georgia's leaders have attempted to sabotage the resettlement process by supporting subversive activities inside Gal and harassing and intimidating Georgians who have chosen to return to Abkhazia. Georgia has also demanded that international groups freeze economic development and social programs in Abkhazia and South Ossetia or risk prosecution under Georgian law. Georgia adopted a law that makes it a crime for

representatives of international organizations to enter Abkhazia and South Ossetia. These laws have forced international groups to make a choice between working in Abkhazia or Georgia. Finally, economic sanctions imposed by Georgia, and supported by its Western backers, have made it difficult for Abkhazia to obtain the necessary funding needed to implement a successful refugee resettlement program.

From: Cathy Noh [mailto:cathy.noh@saylorcompany.com]

Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2009 9:38 AM

Subject: Statement from President Sergei Bagapsh in response to EU war report findings

Importance: High

Please consider the attached statement from Abkhazian President Sergei Bagapsh in your coverage of today's EU war report release. Feel free to contact us if you need further information on Abkhazia.

Best regards,

Steve Ellis

Saylor Company

+1 202.715.1448

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and

Evelyn Iritani

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September 30, 2009



**STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT SERGEI BAGAPSH ON THE
RELEASE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION REPORT ON THE
2008 GEORGIA WAR**

“The time for debate is over. A nine-month investigation by the European Union has confirmed that Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili broke international law when he launched his military attack on South Ossetia on August 7, 2008. It is time for the West to build policies based on this truth, rather than Georgia’s falsehoods.

“Saakashvili’s reckless and hostile behavior towards South Ossetia and Abkhazia, which continues to this day, has changed the political landscape forever. Abkhazia is an independent nation and will never again return to Georgian rule.

“I hope the EU report will open the eyes, ears, and minds of freedom-loving people everywhere to the truth: President Saakashvili is responsible for the August war and the humanitarian crisis it unleashed. If the West is serious about promoting peace in our region, it will push Georgia to sign and adhere to a non-violence pact instead of providing Tbilisi with arms, military training, and billions in aid.

“Abkhazia is building its future as an independent, responsible member of the global community. We urge Europe and the United States to reevaluate their misguided policies to our region based on the incontrovertible facts.”

- Sergei Bagapsh, President, The Republic of Abkhazia

From: Cathy Noh [mailto:cathy.noh@saylorcompany.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2009 3:22 PM
To: Cathy Noh
Subject: South Ossetian President Urges U.S. to Support Peace, Not Military Buildup
Importance: High

Attached is a statement released on behalf of Eduard Kokoity, President of the Republic of South Ossetia. We are advisors for the government and hope you will consider this in your coverage of current events in Georgia.

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SAYLOR COMPANY

PUBLIC RELATIONS COUNSEL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

South Ossetian President Urges U.S. to Support Peace, Not Military Buildup

Kokoity Says "We Want to be Able to Raise our Children Without Worrying Each Day About a Reckless and Embattled Georgian Leader with a U.S. Arsenal at His Disposal."

Tskhinval, South Ossetia -- July 22, 2009 -- The following statement was released on behalf of Eduard Kokoity, President of the Republic of South Ossetia, for distribution to media covering current events in Georgia.

"Less than a year after ordering Georgia's U.S.-trained and equipped military forces to attack South Ossetian civilians, Georgian President Saakashvili continues to demand more and newer weapons from the United States. We hope U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden conducts meetings in Georgia this week with prudence and a clear recognition of the truth: on Aug. 7, 2008 an irrational Georgian leader used U.S. military support to launch a brutal attack on South Ossetia, hours after publicly assuring Ossetian civilians that he had ordered a ceasefire. Grad rockets and cluster bombs killed women, children and the elderly in the middle of the night. Only the intervention of Russia prevented an even greater massacre."

"The U.S. and other western supporters of Georgia have said it is no longer important who started the August war. But it is important. The world's most powerful country continues to support the most irresponsible leader in our region. Georgia does not need more weapons, it needs more tolerance and political freedom. In South Ossetia, we want to be able to raise our children without worrying each day about a reckless and embattled Georgian leader with a U.S. arsenal at his disposal. If the Obama Administration genuinely wants to promote peace, stability and democratic values in our region, it will not send Saakashvili more weapons. Instead it will encourage him to guarantee that he will never again use violence against my country."

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2009 NOV -2 AM 11:53

Weronika Cwir

From: Mark Saylor [mark.saylor@saylorcompany.com]
Sent: Saturday, August 01, 2009 10:07 AM
To: weronika.cwir@saylorcompany.com
Subject: Statement from Republic of South Ossetia

The following statement is from Irina Gagloeva, Minister for press and mass communication of the Republic of South Ossetia. We hope you will consider this in your coverage of today's events in the region.

Only a year ago Georgia initiated a brutal military attack against our country targeting civilian homes, schools, factories, and cultural assets. That tragic war began with asymmetrical terrorist attacks similar to the ones Georgia has launched on our territory in the past few days. Such behavior was abhorrent a year ago, and remains so now. South Ossetia welcomes today's commitment of the Defense Ministry of the Russian Federation to defend South Ossetian citizens against further Georgian aggression.

The Republic of South Ossetia has no reason to provoke Georgia. We are working to build a free and independent country with productive relationships with our neighbors. Our democratically elected government represents a population proud of its heritage and optimistic about its future. Georgia and its allies need to accept that South Ossetia is not a part of Georgia and never will be. Georgia itself has always cherished its own independence, and it is hypocritical for its Government not to acknowledge that others share the same desire for freedom. The best solution is for Georgia to sign and honor a non-violence agreement with us so that we can all move forward out of the shadow of war and destruction.

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From: Cathy Noh [mailto:cathy.noh@saylorcompany.com]

Sent: Monday, August 03, 2009 10:37 AM

To: Cathy Noh

Subject: Statement from South Ossetia

Importance: High

The following statement is from Irina Gagloeva, Minister of Information and Mass Communication of the Republic of South Ossetia. We hope you will consider this in your coverage of today's events in the region.

Monday, August 3, 2009

"Neither the Republic of South Ossetia or the Russian Federation took part in any advance into Georgian territory in Kveshi on Sunday.

South Ossetians will commemorate the anniversary of Georgia's brutal attack on our civilians on August 7, 2008. We aim to do this peacefully and respectfully and then move on to rebuild our country and to take care of our people and their needs. We call on the government of Georgia to use its energies to do the same for its people and stop provocative game playing, which is a waste of time and not helpful to the stability of our region."

This material is circulated by Saylor Company on behalf of the Republic of South Ossetia, for which Saylor Company is registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act with the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. Copies of this material and additional information are on file with the Department of Justice.

Best regards,

Cathy

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From: Cathy Noh [mailto:cathy.noh@saylorcompany.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2009 7:36 AM
To: Cathy Noh
Subject: Press Release from South Ossetia on the Anniversary of the Georgian War
Importance: High

Attached is a press release from the government of the Republic of South Ossetia. We are advisors for the government and hope you will consider this in your coverage of the anniversary of the Georgia conflict. For additional information on the militarization of Georgia, please contact us.

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August 6, 2009



South Ossetia Calls for West to Stop Arming Georgia

*President Eduard Kokoity Says Western Leaders, Behind the Scenes,
Know Georgian President is Erratic, Undependable,
Yet They Continue to Send Him Arms*

Tskhinval, South Ossetia—August 6, 2009—As it prepares to honor the victims of last August's war, the government of the Republic of South Ossetia called on the United States and its allies to halt their rearmament of Georgia.

South Ossetian President Eduard Kokoity said Georgia's Western supporters had failed to hold President Mikheil Saakashvili accountable for ordering the brutal attack on South Ossetia, which left hundreds dead and thousands homeless.

"Many Western foreign policy experts have said the Obama Administration -- as well as most European governments -- have at least privately acknowledged that Saakashvili is responsible for starting last year's war," said Kokoity. "Yet they continue to rearm and train his military."

"We are the people who have to live with this reckless leader wielding a foreign arsenal on our border. Since the war, the U.S. and other governments have pledged billions of dollars to a Georgian leader who to this day has refused to pledge non-violence against us."

"I am confident the world will someday understand that the greatest promise for stability and peace in our region is acceptance of South Ossetia's independence and support for the economic and political freedom of our people."

Kokoity invited the world to join with South Ossetia in acknowledging what happened on the night of August 7th, 2008.

“Saakashvili went on television and declared that we should sleep peacefully, assuring us that there would be no military action by his government. A few hours later he ordered an artillery attack on our capital, killing women and children asleep in their beds. Within hours, there were Georgian tanks on our streets firing shells into homes, hospitals and schools.”

“Only the intervention of the Russian Federation stopped the atrocities,” said Kokoity.

The South Ossetian President thanked the Russian Federation for continuing to protect his country from further Georgian hostilities.

Over the next three days, the Republic of South Ossetia will hold a series of events to honor the soldiers and innocent civilians killed or wounded in the August war.

In a commentary published today by The Guardian, Kokoity and Abkhazian President Sergei Bagapsh cited the “a vast moral abdication in the West, among politicians, intellectuals and media – a failure to honestly confront what Georgia did.”

[<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/aug/06/georgia-abkhazia-south-ossetia>]

Kokoity and Bagapsh argued that this moral failure has kept the West “from dealing realistically with the new boundaries of nationhood here. Abkhazia and South Ossetia are free and independent countries, goals sought by our people for centuries. We will never again be a part of Georgia.”

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From: Cathy Noh [mailto:cathy.noh@saylorcompany.com]

Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2009 10:56 PM

Subject: South Ossetia Press Release on the Anniversary of the Zar Road Massacre

Importance: High

Attached is a press release from the government of the Republic of South Ossetia. We are advisors for the government and hope you will consider this in your anniversary coverage of the Georgian war.

This material is circulated by Saylor Company on behalf of the Republic of South Ossetia, for which Saylor Company is registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act with the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. Copies of this material and additional information are on file with the Department of Justice..

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August 7, 2009



South Ossetia Honors Civilians Killed by Georgian Troops in Zar Road Massacre

Presidents of South Ossetia and Abkhazia Call for Georgia to Prosecute Those Responsible for the Deaths of Civilians Fleeing War Zone

Tskhinval, South Ossetia – August 7, 2009 – On the anniversary of last year's war, South Ossetian and Abkhazian officials called on the world to hold Georgia's leaders responsible for the slaughter of innocent civilians by Georgian troops.

During its invasion of South Ossetia the Georgian military stationed tanks and troops at a curve in Zar Road, which was widely known as the only civilian escape route from Tskhinval to North Ossetia. The soldiers repeatedly fired shells at point blank range into cars carrying frightened families attempting to flee the war zone.

The victims of the Zar Road massacre will be among those honored this weekend during South Ossetia's commemoration of the anniversary of the five-day battle. More than 20 people were killed on Zar Road, most burned in their cars or killed by machine guns.

Georgia has never investigated or prosecuted those responsible for those attacks on civilians, which constitute a war crime under international law. In 1992, 34 South Ossetian civilians died in a similar attack by Georgian terrorists on Zar Road.

"The refusal of Georgia or its Western supporters to even acknowledge this massacre is proof of the moral failure by the leaders responsible for last year's war," said Eduard Kokoity, president of the Republic of South Ossetia. "This is not the fault of Georgian citizens, but of President Saakashvili and his military officers making a deliberate and horrible decision to kill innocent people. Why do U.S. and European leaders continue to support such men?"

Kokoity compared the Zar Road massacre to the My Lai massacre in Vietnam, an atrocity that led many Americans to question U.S. conduct in that war.

Sergei Bagapsh, president of the Republic of Abkhazia, visiting Tskhinval for the ceremonies, also called on the world to have Saakashvili held accountable for the Zar Road massacre.

“Georgia, joined by U.S. and European leaders, insists this is a simple matter of territorial rights,” Bagapsh said. “Aren’t human rights, including the aspirations for freedom and self-determination by Abkhazians and Ossetians, more important than territorial conquest?”

Kokoity said, “Many Western leaders would now like to politely forget that Georgia started the war last year and avert their eyes from the atrocities committed by Georgia’s military. But we cannot forget, which is why we will never be part of Georgia. In time, history will judge Georgia’s leaders severely.”

Kokoity and Bagapsh appealed to the United States and other countries to halt their continuing support for Georgia’s military, through financial assistance, equipment and training.

The presidents acknowledged the region’s long history of ethnic conflict and both said they wanted their countries to chart a new path.

“We want justice for the victims of the Zar Road massacre and for others slaughtered by the Georgian military but we have no interest in revenge,” said Kokoity.

Bagapsh said Abkhazia is working hard to create an environment where people of all races, ethnicities and religions can live together in peace.

Kokoity said his government is committed to helping Georgians return to South Ossetia, as long as they were not involved in subversive activities before the war.

Both presidents said it was time for the West to accept the fact that South Ossetia and Abkhazia are independent and will never be part of Georgia.

“We are confident that the truth of what happened last August will eventually prevail, and the certainty of our independence will triumph over the politics,” Bagapsh said. “But a safe and secure future cannot be built on a fraudulent past.”

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From: Cathy Noh [mailto:cathy.noh@saylorcompany.com]
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2009 11:01 AM
Subject: Statement from South Ossetia on Venezuela's Recognition
Importance: High

Attached is a statement from President Eduard Kokoity on the recognition of South Ossetia by Venezuela. Please consider this in your coverage of the region.

Best regards,

Cathy

This material is circulated by Saylor Company on behalf of the Republic of South Ossetia, for which Saylor Company is registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act with the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. Copies of this material and additional information are on file with the Department of Justice.

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September 11, 2009



STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT EDUARD KOKOITY ON RECOGNITION OF SOUTH OSSETIA BY VENEZUELA

The people of the Republic of South Ossetia are grateful to the government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for its recognition of our nation as an independent state. South Ossetians want our nation to prosper and grow without fear of being attacked by our neighbors. Venezuela's recognition will help us achieve that goal because it acknowledges a simple but profound truth; that South Ossetia is not part of Georgia and never will be. My government has already begun working with Venezuela to build political and economic relationships that will benefit both countries. I urge other nations to consider recognizing South Ossetia's independence so that we can work together to restore stability to our region and build a more prosperous future for everyone. I extend an invitation to President Chavez to come to South Ossetia so that he can experience personally the passion, the dedication, and the desire of our people to join others in contributing to the global progress of the entire international community.

--Eduard Kokoity, President, Republic of South Ossetia

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From: Cathy Noh [mailto:cathy.noh@saylorcompany.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 3:19 PM
Subject: Statement from President Eduard Kokoity in Response to Open Letter
Importance: High

Attached is a statement from President Eduard Kokoity in response to today's open letter from Vaclav Havel and others. Please consider this in your coverage of the region.

Best regards,

Cathy Noh

This material is circulated by Saylor Company on behalf of the Republic of South Ossetia, for which Saylor Company is registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act with the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. Copies of this material and additional information are on file with the Department of Justice.

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September 22, 2009



**STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT EDUARD KOKOITY
IN RESPONSE TO HAVEL OPEN LETTER**

“Vaclav Havel and the co-signers of today’s open letter to Europe are turning history on its head by ignoring the genuine democratic aspirations of the people of Abkhazia and South Ossetia and, instead, siding with a reckless Georgian president who launched a five-day war in August 2008 that killed hundreds and left thousands homeless.

Their abuse of history confirms only their intellectual bankruptcy. If they genuinely want to support peace in the Caucasus, they would use their moral influence to persuade Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili to sign a pledge of non-violence against his neighbors.

In light of their appalling misunderstanding of our region, I remind Havel and others of an important historical fact: The border they are attempting to resurrect around Georgia was drawn not by Georgia’s democracy champions but by Josef Stalin, who forced South Ossetia and Abkhazia into what was then the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic. After decades of violence inflicted by nationalist Georgian leaders, the people of South Ossetia and Abkhazia are dismantling a wall of oppression and fear and building a future as free and independent nations.

The right of self determination is a foundation of democracy. Mr. Havel, of all people, knows that and his country has prospered because of it. Why would South Ossetians and Abkhazians deserve anything less?”

--Eduard Kokoity, President, Republic of South Ossetia

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From: Cathy Noh [mailto:cathy.noh@saylorcompany.com]

Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2009 9:12 PM

To: Cathy Noh

Subject: Statement from President Eduard Kokoity in Response to President Saakashvili's UNGA Speech

Importance: High

Please consider the attached statement from South Ossetian President Eduard Kokoity in your coverage of President Saakashvili's UN General Assembly speech today.

Feel free to contact me if you need further information on South Ossetia.

Best regards,

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This material is circulated by Saylor Company on behalf of the Republic of South Ossetia, for which Saylor Company is registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act with the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. Copies of this material and additional information are on file with the Department of Justice.

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September 24, 2009



**STATEMENT BY SOUTH OSSETIAN PRESIDENT EDUARD KOKOITY
IN RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT SAKASHVILI'S UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SPEECH**

“President Saakashvili claims to be a statesman. Yet once again, he has shown his disregard for the truth and refused to take responsibility for his reckless actions. It was he who cynically told the people of South Ossetia that they were safe, and then hours later ordered his troops to fire on Tskhinval, triggering the August war. It is he who is responsible for the resulting humanitarian disaster, most of which occurred in South Ossetia. It is he who has refused to renounce violence against us, making it impossible to build the peace and prosperity desired by people everywhere. I hope that these facts will be fairly and objectively presented in next week's EU report, and that the world will finally know the truth about how President Saakashvili conducts Georgia's affairs.

It is unfortunate that the U.N. has given President Saakashvili a powerful platform to shift the focus away from his irresponsible behavior. Instead of pursuing a dialogue of peace and diplomacy, he is trying to use South Ossetia and Abkhazia as levers to pit Russia against the U.S. and the West. This is a dangerous and reckless strategy, which only serves to fuel the tensions and increase the likelihood of further conflict.

Let me be clear: South Ossetia will never again be a part of Georgia. As president, I have taken steps to ensure that all of our peace-loving citizens—regardless of their ethnicity—can return home safely. We are rebuilding homes and schools. We are creating the institutions of a true democracy; holding elections, establishing a judicial system, and building businesses that can provide a future for our people. We invite the members of the U.N. to visit us and see for themselves.

President Saakashvili is trying to stifle an honest discussion about South Ossetia because he knows the truth will resonate with all who resent oppression and wish to be free—just as Georgians themselves have for centuries. ”

-- Eduard Kokoity, President, Republic of South Ossetia

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From: Cathy Noh [mailto:cathy.noh@saylorcompany.com]

Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2009 6:21 AM

Subject: Statement on behalf of Republics of Abkhazia and South Ossetia in advance of EU report on Georgia War

Importance: High

The following is being distributed by Saylor Company on behalf of the governments of the Republic of Abkhazia and South Ossetia:

On Wednesday, a special commission investigating the August 2008 conflict in Georgia is expected to report its findings to the European Union in Brussels. Based on media coverage, we expect the commission to corroborate the position of the South Ossetian and Abkhazian governments that it was Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili who was responsible for launching the August 2008 war. As a result of that five-day war, which targeted a civilian population in Tskhinval, hundreds of people died and thousands were left homeless. South Ossetia bore the brunt of the damage.

We have compiled the attached backgrounder for consideration in your coverage of this long-awaited report. For more information on the August war and other issues relating to the Caucasus, please refer to www.republicofsouthossetia.org and www.therepublicofabkhazia.org. Please contact us if we can assist you with any other questions.

We will also be distributing statements from both governments after the report is released.

Best regards,

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This material is circulated by Saylor Company on behalf of the Republics of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, for which Saylor Company is registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act with the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. Copies of this material and additional information are on file with the Department of Justice.

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From: Cathy Noh [mailto:cathy.noh@saylorcompany.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2009 9:58 AM
Subject: Statement from South Ossetian President Eduard Kokoity in response to EU report
Importance: High

Please consider the attached statement from South Ossetian President Eduard Kokoity in your coverage of the EU report released today.

Feel free to contact us if you need further information from the government of South Ossetia. We can also provide background information from the governments of South Ossetia and Abkhazia on the militarization of Georgia and U.S. support for Georgia.

Best regards,

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September 30, 2009



**STATEMENT FROM SOUTH OSSETIAN
PRESIDENT EDUARD KOKOITY IN RESPONSE
TO THE EUROPEAN UNION REPORT ON THE GEORGIA WAR**

“Since the night of August 7, 2008, when their world was shattered by Georgian rockets and artillery, the people of South Ossetia have known the truth. Today, the European Union report has confirmed that Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili violated international law when he launched his brutal attack on my country, killing hundreds and leaving thousands homeless.

“Saakashvili is a war criminal and it is time for the world to stop rewarding him with billions of dollars in aid and military equipment. If the West is serious about promoting peace in the Caucasus it must hold Georgia’s president responsible for his reckless behavior and reconsider its misguided policies. To continue to arm and finance a leader who launched a military attack that killed innocent civilians is abhorrent.

“There is no going back. South Ossetia is an independent nation and will never again be part of Georgia. “

–Eduard Kokoity, President, The Republic of South Ossetia

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